

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 L-03 /109 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7305

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 4575

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CANDIDACY TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REQUEST FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR
NIGERIAN CANDIDACY TO IMCO. ELECTION WILL BE HELD
AT THETH ASSEMBLY SESSION OF IMCO. USUN HAS NOT RESPONDED.

2. "THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTA-
TIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANISATION (IMCO)
AND HAS THE HONOUR OT INFORM THE LATTER THAT THE FEDERAL
MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA HAS DECIDED TO SEEK RE-ELECTION
INTO THE COUNCIL OF IMCO UNDER ARTICLE 18 DURING THE 10 TH
ASSEMBLY SESSION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN LONDON FROM 7-18
NOVEMBER 1977.

3 "SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER OF IMCO, AND PARTICULARLY
DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS AS MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL,
NIGERIA HAS CONSISTENTLY PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN
THE ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITIES, AND HAS TRIED TO GIVE EFFECT
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TO ALL THE IMCO CONVENTIONS RELATING TO THE SEA BED AND
ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES. BESIDES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
HAS SINCE EMBARKED ON GIGANTIC PORT EXPANSION PROGRAMME
WORTH THOUSANDS OF MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS FOR PURPOSE OF
PROVIDING MODERN BERTHING FACILITIES AT LAGOS, PORT-HARCOURT,
CALABAR, WARRI AND SAPELE PORTS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACQUIRED
19 NEW SHOPS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING ONES, WHILE OVER

50 DEPP SEA FISHING VESSELS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES.

4. "THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA, THEREFORE, HOPES THAT NIGERIA'S CANDIDATURE WILL RECEIVE THE FAVOURABLE SUPPORT OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE IMCO IN VIEW OF NIGERIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMCO ACTIVITIES SET OUT ABOVE AND TO WORLD SHIPPING IN GENERAL. IN THIS CONNECTION, A COPY OF A SELF-EXPLANATORY AIDE-MEMOIRE IS ENCLOSED.

5. "THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AVAILS HIMSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANISATION (IMCO) THE ASSURANCES OF HIS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

QUOTE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA HAS DECIDED TO SEEK RE-ELECTION INTO THE COUNCIL OF THE IMCO UNDER CATEGORY C OF ARTICLE 18 DURING THE 10 TH ASSEMBLY SESSION TO BE HELD IN LONDON FROM 7TH -18TH NOVEMBER , 1977. SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE IMCO AND PARTICULARLY DURING THE LAST 4 YEARS AS MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, NIGERIA HAS CONSISTENTLY PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIVITIES. ON THIS SCORE, AND IN VIEW OF THE UNDER-LISTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MARITIME WORLD, NIGERIA STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT IT QUALIFIES TO STAND FOR A RE-ELECTION INTO THE COUNCIL.
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2. PORT EXPANSION PROGRAMME

(I) LAGOS PORT

(A) 10 NEW DEEP WATER BERTHS BUILD AT THE COST OF \$350 MILLION WHICH WILL BE READY IN OCTOBER, 1977.

(B) A LARGE CONTAINER TERMINAL COMPRISING 5 CONTAINER BERTHS IN NEAR COMPLETION.

(C) INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL 26 MOORING BUOYS AT LAGOS HARBOUR.

(D) PURCHASE OF HUNDREDS OF BARGES AND TUGS TO AUGMENT LAGOS PORT FACILITIES, AND OTHER PORTS OF THE FEDERATION.

(E) COMPLETION OF 2 EXTENSIVE TERMINALS WITH SPECIALLY DREDGED CHANNEL TO TAKE VESSELS OF DEEPER DRAFT.

(F) CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DEEP WATER CHANNEL UP TO 13 METRES AT DATUM TO CATER FOR LARGE CONTAINER AND BULK CARGO SHIPS.

(II) OTHER PORTS

CONTRACTS WORTH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS HAVE BEEN AWARDED FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW BERTH WITH WAREHOUSING FACILITIES AT WARRI, SAPELE AND CALABAR, PLANS TO CONSTRUCT DEEP WATER BERTHS AT PORT-HARCOURT (ONNE) AND KOKO PORTS HAVE REACHED ADVANCED STAGE.

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3. OTHER MARITIME PROJECTS

WITH IMCO ASSISTANCE THE NAUTICAL COLLEGE OF NIGERIA
HAS TAKEN OFF AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA NOW PLACES
HIGH EMPHASIS ON THE COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT BY 1979.

4. FLEET EXPANSION

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA HAS ORDER 19 NEW SHIPS
TO BE ADDED TO ITS EXISTING FLEET WITH A VIEW TO CARRYING
35 PERCENT - 40 PERCENT OF ITS CARGO BY 1980. IN ADDITION
OVER 50 DEEP SEA FISHING VESSELS HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED BY
BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES.

5. MARITIME CONVENTION AND LEGISLATION

IN THIS ARE NIGERIA'S DOMESTIC LEGISLATIONS GIVING EFFECT
TO IMCO CONVENTIONS ARE UP-TO-DATE AS THOSE OF ANY ADVANCED
NATION. THIS IS EVIDENCED BY NIGERIA'S RATIFICATION OF 1969
AMENDMENTS TO THE 1954 OIL POLLUTION CONVENTION.
NIGERIA WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCING STRICT REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT
THE 1969 AMENDMENTS TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS IN HER
SHORES AND HARBOURS.

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NIGERIA IS ALSO STUDYING THE 1973 POLLUTION FROM SHIPS CONVENTION WITH THE VIEW TO RATIFYING IT IN THE EARLIES POSSIBLE DATE.

6. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA HOPES THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE LISTED CONTRIUTIONS TO IMCO ACTIVITIES IN PARTICULAR AND TO WORLD SHIPPING IN GENERAL, MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WILL EXTEND THEIR SUPPORT TO NIGERIA'S CANDIDATURE FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF IMCO.

7. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF IMCO THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. NIGERIA IS FULLY AWARE THAT RESPONSIBILITY MUST ACCOMPANY INTEREST AND IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT, ONCE AGAIN, THESE RESPONSIBILITIES AND THUS SERVE THE HIGH PURPOSE OF IMCO TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL MARITIME NATIONS AND THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR. UNQUOTE

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